

## NIFA in the News – Week of May 30, 2011

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### In the News

**Training program jumpstarts entrepreneurship in Missouri (Kansas City Star 5/27).** The University of Missouri's innovative and engaging program, The Entrepreneurship Project, guides aspiring farmers and ranchers in their path of developing an idea into a profitable venture in production agriculture. This project is funded by grant No. MO-SSCG1163 from the United States Department of Agriculture's Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)

**Millions go toward cattle disease, feed intake research (AVMA Journal 5/31).** The Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture announced April 15 that it had awarded two major grants totaling more than \$14 million to support research, education, and outreach on cattle production to increase global food security. Of the total, \$9.75 million is going to Texas A&M University to fund research led by James E. Womack, PhD, to reduce the prevalence of bovine respiratory disease in beef and dairy cattle. NIFA awarded the remaining \$4.9 million to the University of Missouri-Columbia College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources to study feed efficiency in cattle. [Link](#)

**USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture Requests VMLRP Applications (Veterinary Practice News 5/31).** The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) today posted a notice requesting applications for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP). The FY 2011 VMLRP application package is now available online and applications are due by July 8. [Link](#)

**Feds Making Vet School Affordable (News Talk 1289 6/1).** Livestock veterinarians willing to practice in Washington state's underserved rural areas will benefit from a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program that pays off up to \$75,000 of veterinary school loan debt. Established by Congress, the USDA's Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program has funding in Washington state for five veterinarians who commit to provide veterinary services for food animals such as beef and dairy cattle, swine and poultry in areas without adequate

veterinarian coverage. [Link](#)

**Researchers Profile 'New Destination Towns' in the Corn Belt and Great Plains (Newswise 6/2).** Small town America is getting smaller. But some Midwestern communities have managed to buck the trend, according to a team of researchers from Iowa State University, Kansas State University, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. They've identified 12 rural communities (populations of 10,000 or fewer) that are "new destination towns" in Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska -- experiencing a significant increase in Hispanic population in the last two decades. The research team will be publishing additional reports on this project ([www.soc.iastate.edu/rural](http://www.soc.iastate.edu/rural)), which is funded by a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture, National Research Initiative. [Link](#)



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Published on June 3, 2011 / Jennifer Martin